Claims

1. An apparatus for generating image data in a computer system, comprising:

(a) a computer system having a memory, a display, and a user input means;

(b) one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for:

(i) defining first image data as a first layer, wherein the first layer has respective co-ordinates within a three-dimensional volume configured with a reference co-ordinate system;

(ii) positioning second image data relative to said first image data within said volume by generating a reference pose layer and configuring the co-ordinates thereof as a second reference co-ordinate system within said volume;

(iii) positioning said reference pose layer relative to said first layer; and

(iv) upon selecting said second image data, defining said second image data as said second layer having respective co-ordinates within said three-dimensional volume configured with said second reference co-ordinate system.

2. A method of generating image data comprising:

defining first image data as a first layer, wherein the first layer has respective co-ordinates within a three-dimensional volume configured with a reference co-ordinate system;

positioning second image data relative to said first image data within said volume by generating a reference pose layer and configuring the co-

ordinates thereof as a second reference co-ordinate system within said volume;

positioning said reference pose layer relative to said first layer; and

upon selecting said second image data, defining said second image data as said second layer having respective co-ordinates within said three-dimensional volume configured with said second reference co-ordinate system.

3. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for generating image data, the method comprising:

defining first image data as a first layer, wherein the first layer has respective co-ordinates within a three-dimensional volume configured with a reference co-ordinate system;

positioning second image data relative to said first image data within said volume by generating a reference pose layer and configuring the co-ordinates thereof as a second reference co-ordinate system within said volume;

positioning said reference pose layer relative to said first layer; and

upon selecting said second image data, defining said second image data as said second layer having respective co-ordinates within said three-dimensional volume configured with said second reference co-ordinate system.